



Chalice Chat

Sunday News from the Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church
December 8, 2019

Sharing Our Plate – Loaves and Fishes

Food Pantry – December

Each month, 33% of the cash contributions in the collection plate, other than those specified for pledges, go to a designated tax deductible social justice organization or local charity. Loaves and Fishes is a food pantry in Ayer, MA whose mission it is to serve nutritious food in an atmosphere of kindness and respect to individuals in need who reside in Ayer, Devens, Groton, Harvard, Littleton and Shirley. More than 350 volunteers help over 900 client families who are food insecure. For more information about Loaves and Fishes, please go to loavesfishespantry.org. If you would like 100% of your donation to go to Loaves and Fishes, please make your check out to Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry, Inc.

Sharing Our Stories, December 8

We will be hearing a collection of personal stories written by members of one of Carol MacFarlane's writing groups. These essays, on topics ranging from childhood to spirituality, will reflect the individuality of each writer's voice. We will learn more about the life journeys and the personal reflections of our fellow church members as they let us in to their lives, thoughtfully, warmly and at times humorously. Hope you can join us. Perhaps you will become inspired to write and share one day some of your own story.

“Hope in the Dark” December 15

Rev. Jill Cowie

Hanukkah, means “dedication” in Hebrew and honors the long ago rebels whose dedication reclaimed their temple. Every year Jews celebrate the miracle of the altar flame that burned for nine days, despite only oil enough for one. Join us for a

celebration that honors this enduring spirit of resilience and hope still present to day. A spirit by which we dedicate our lives.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Children/Youth Programming

Continuing our church-wide message of The Power of We, the children and youth will begin the month of December rehearsing for the Mummers play, to be presented Sunday, 12/22.

Last Sunday, after our worship-time together practicing yoga-laughing, a small group of children and youth learned the art of writing letters for corporate donations. Led by Stacie Green, we wrote to ask for toiletries, we could later use to fill our Valentines Day bags for Loaves and Fishes. Stacie will also present to our Coming of Age (COA) teens this Sunday.

COA meeting & COA and Mentor meeting

COA youth meet this Sunday at 10 a.m. for regular class. They snack and then stay later, from 11:30 to 12:30 p.m., to meet with their Mentors. It's also time to sign up for ReachOut Worcester, similar to CityReach, happening Friday through Saturday afternoon, Feb. 7-8, 2020. Please let your facilitators or Carol, our COA coordinator know.

Chalica: Week 2, Celebrating Principle 2

The second of our Unitarian Universalist Principles calls us to affirm and promote “justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.” Please keep this call to action close in your hearts.

Laura Vilain, Dir. of Religious Education

It's a week to consider when you or someone else spoke or acted for justice in a way that made a difference. It's a time to think about what inspires you to feel compassion for those who are suffering from injustice or other causes of pain. It's a time to reach out in compassion, even when overwhelmed, find a new ways of expression. Enjoy this week of Chalica.

Holiday Shoe-Box Tree

Thank you to all those congregants who took a shoebox to fill with gifts for the 11 youth/children who live in Worcester and are immigrants and refugees from various countries. This program is sponsored by the African Community Education (ACE) program of Worcester.

Please return your shoebox, filled with some of these suggestions: hats, mittens, scarves, warm socks, journals, T-shirts, games, flashlight, art/school supplies, gift cards, etc. Then perhaps you could write a note. Please wrap the box and write the name of your child on the box. I'll be collecting boxes this week and next. Last drop-off date is next Sunday, Dec. 15th. Thank you for helping!

Caroling on the Common, Coming soon: Wednesday, 12/18/19, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Traditional songs with preprinted lyrics; bring your voices and a flashlight!

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday December 10, 7:00 p.m.
Vespers Service *Deepening of the Spirit*: In this time of gathering darkness and introspection, HUUC will offer an evening Vespers service of quiet, calm beauty. All are welcome at the 45-minute service in the sanctuary. This contemplative service will offer readings, quiet music, and poetry, as well as time for shared silence. Candles can be lit throughout the service. Please enter and leave in silence.

Social Justice Ministries Council will be meeting Monday, December 9 at 5:30 pm to discuss our plans for next year. We had a busy fall hosting 3 successful events – Carbon Pricing Info Session, 1619 Project Discussion, and the Fair Trade Fair. Please feel free to join us with your thoughts about how to continue the momentum into next year. Questions – please email Ginger Kendall at 4kendalls@charter.net or Colleen Pearce at hendrie.road@gmail.com.

Stewardship Campaign We're almost there! The current total is \$183,293 or 87% of our goal of \$210,000. If you haven't turned in your pledge yet we urge you to please do so today. Thank you!

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday December 8
10:00 Coming of Age meeting
10:00-11:30 a.m. Mummers rehearsal, FB
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Sharing Our Stories
Carol MacFarlane & Friends
11:20-11:50 a.m. Jr. Choir
11:30-12:30 Coming of Age & Mentors
12:00-1:00 p.m. Chimers
Monday December 9
5:30p.m. Social Justice Ministries Council
Tuesday December 10
7:00 p.m. Vespers Service
Deepening of the Spirit
Wednesday December 11
7:00-8:00pm Meditation
Thursday December 12
7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal
Saturday December 14
10-11:30 a.m. Mummers rehearsal
Sunday December 15
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
"Hope in the Dark"
Rev. Jill Cowie
10:00-11:30 Mummers rehearsal
11:15 – 1:00 Newcomers Lunch
11:20-11:50 Jr Choir
11:30-12:30 Coming of Age
12:00-1:00 Chimers